

WYCOMBE Wanderers stumbled to their first defeat in this season's Premier Midweek Floodlight League on Tuesday night. Two second half goals, one a gift, were enough to maintain Banbury United's 16 match unbeaten record (writes Stuart Earp).

The Blues, hoping for a good result before tomorrow's (Saturday) big F.A. Cup visit to Chatham, fielded a stronger side than usual in this competition, but never really looked like taking even a point from a Banbury side containing nine first team regulars.

Poor distribution and lack of teamwork frustrated many promising Wycombe moves, and despite the strength of Evans, Searle and Perrin upfront, they were never able to break through. Defensively, they were extremely well served by Phil Wood, who hardly put a foot wrong all night.

Alongside Ian Rundle, Wood was at his best, keeping tight on the home forwards and making some well judged interceptions. Young 'Jock' Mackenzie also turned in another promising 90 minutes while Rob Williams enjoyed his switch from midfield to full back.

Wycombe's problem though

was in attack. The front men were always trying that little bit too much and ruined many attacks with over-elaboration. A few more shots at goal might well have paid dividends.

The visitors could well have been a couple of goals up in the first 15 minutes. Evans and Pritchard both went close and then in the fourth minute, Bob Haynes headed off the line from Keith Searle. Seconds later a fine turn and cross by Evans found Perrin unmarked but Stewart Rennie saved the header well.

Banbury hit back with Wright saving well from

Jim Cassidy's cross and later in the half, the diminutive 'keeper dived to save Tony Jacques' header from Pollard's cross.

After the opening burst, however, the match deteriorated badly. With defences on top, neither side could find a way through and play became scrappy in midfield with passes constantly going astray.

Two quick breaks by Banbury enlivened the start of the second half but Wycombe, holding onto the ball too long, allowed the slow Banbury back four all the time in the world to clear their laboured attacks. When the ear-

ly ball was played, the home rearguard looked suspect.

Wright came to Wycombe's rescue in the 62nd minute when the free running Hastie was put through by Crogale. Taking the ball to a narrow angle, Hastie was about to unleash a drive when Wright hurled himself at the winger's feet, pulling off a brave save and injuring himself in the process. He was able to resume after treatment.

Wanderers' best chance of the game came in the 70th minute from a Paul Birdseye corner. His inswinger found Pritchard who powered a header against the crossbar. The ball cannoned out

Banbury 2, Wycombe Wanderers 0

After their surprise draw with Maidenhead United in their last Premier Midweek Floodlight League game, Wycombe Wanderers went down at Banbury in the Floodlight League on Tuesday.

Wycombe, fielding a fairly strong side but without Dave Bullock and Tony Horseman, found themselves bogged down in a scrappy midfield struggle for most of the match.

But two goals late in the second half from Tony Jaques kept Banbury's unbeaten record this season, intact.

The Southern League Division 1 South side, Banbury gave a professional performance, spoiling all Wycombe's attacking moves, and keeping play confined to the midfield.

to Searle whose powerful drive was blocked by a sea of legs.

After that, Banbury took the initiative and never let go. Veteran Jaques opened the scoring just on 75 minutes with a classic near post goal from a set piece. Hastie's superb inswinging corner found Jaques who backheaded into the net with Wright helpless.

Evans replied with a drive just wide of the post before United secured the verdict with the second — a free gift from Wright.

Coming out to field Rennie's goalkick, Wright seemed to have the ball in his grasp but couldn't hold it and it spun out of his hands and onto the grateful boot of Jaques who slammed it home first time. Substitute Alan Unitt struck the angle of the bar and post to emphasise Wycombe's troubles, ten seconds from time.

BANBURY: S. Rennie, J. Cassidy, B. Haynes, D. Matthews, K. Butler, D. Archibald, A. Pollard, P. Duester (sub A. Unitt 43 mins), A. Jaques G. Crogale, J. Hastie. Sub P. Svenson (not used).

WYCOMBE: D. Wright, P. Birdseye, P. Wood, I. Rundle, R. Williams, G. Mackenzie, A. Brothers, L. Pritchard, D. Evans, K. Searle, S. Perrin. Subs D. Bullock, R. Grant (not used).

Referee: D. V. Reeves (New Denham).

Half-time 0-0. Goalscorers, Banbury — Jaques 2 (75, 87).